



Justice Courts People's Court Chronicle

*October/
November 2001
Volume 2/Issue 2*

Inside

Security in an Insecure
World

Bilingual Pay Approved

Today's Arizona Women
Justices of the Peace

Open Enrollment begins
October 20

Court Commentary

From The Administrator

Maricopa County Flag History Preserved by Chief Clerk



**Carol Risch presents historical flag
documents to Chris Pinuelas**

All across America you see them flying in the breeze, draped over businesses and proudly displayed on lapels — flags are popular as never before. Here in Maricopa County, in a tribute to her father, Chief Clerk of the Northwest Phoenix Justice Court, Carol Risch delivered the last official documents to be historically archived for the first Maricopa County Flag.

Carol's father, now deceased, was personally responsible for the creation of the Maricopa County flag in 1954. William D. Gunn, was part of a local American Legion precision drill color guard that entered a national competition held in Miami, Florida. To qualify they were required to have the national, state, county and post flag. Gunn discovered the County did not have a flag.

After researching state legislative requirements, Gunn, guard commander from William Bloys Post No. 2 in Tempe, contacted the board of supervisors and got their approval to hold a county flag contest. On November 9, 1954, a panel of judges, including Board Chairman James Hart and County Manager Tom Sullivan, reviewed 97 entries and selected the winning design, submitted by Michael J. Groves from Phoenix Technical High School.

The design, adopted by the supervisors a week later, featured the words "Maricopa County" in red and "Arizona" in purple, encircled by 14 gold stars on an inner field of white, with a purple outer field.

The official flag was commissioned from the lowest bidder at the cost of \$270 for two six-foot flags.

After her father's death Risch discovered the official letters and copies of correspondence on the county flag. On Oct. 2 she turned the memoirs over to Maricopa County for historical archives.

The county is currently in the process of updating the county flag for the second time. Soon a newly designed county flag will be flying.

Today the original Maricopa County flag, along with its historical documents, are safely tucked away in the Clerk of the Board archives. They hold a piece of Arizona's history and a piece of Carol Risch's heart.

*A bi-monthly
newsletter
for employees of the
Maricopa
County
Justice Courts*

America The Beautiful

Celebrate Veteran's Day and Dare to be Patriotic

By Presiding Judge Lester Pearce



Last month we celebrated the 214th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. As a former U.S. Constitution teacher, I admit an unabashed love for this document. I believe it is what has kept us a strong and free nation for over 200 years.

In his inaugural Address, in 1974 President Gerald R. Ford said, “Our constitution works. Our great republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here, the people rule.

Next month we will celebrate Veterans Day and now, as never before, we need to honor those brave men and women who gave or will give their lives so we can be free.

As a bold and brazen 21 year old, I was at my peak physically from sports and weightlifting; and proudly went down to enlist in the service. How heartbroken and dejected I felt, when due to a weak ankle, I was told my services would not be required. Since that fateful day, I have tried to give service to my country in ways such as volunteering for judicial and legislative committees and serving in the Arizona State Senate. I believe there are many opportunities to give service to our country; but I would be remiss if I did not encourage all employees of the Justice Courts to take a moment to commemorate and give honor to those, as Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, “gave the last full measure of devotion.”

As I sit here today, I have no idea how many of our men and women will be required to make the ultimate sacrifice by the time Veterans Day arrives; but I believe, with all my heart, that whatever is required — Americans will deliver.

And we as a Judiciary should continue with the commitment to offer our communities protection of our Constitutional Rights by upholding the constitution as those brave veterans have in the past and as our military will in the future.

Court Commentary

How has your life changed since September 11, 2001?

Pam Klein, Felony Clerk
Glendale Justice Court

“I am more fearful than I use to be.
Now I wonder what can happen next.”

Jill Owen, Felony Clerk
Chandler Justice Court

“I feel grateful for the things I have and I now look at my life very differently.”

Troy Marshall, Assistant Chief Clerk
Northwest Justice Court

I lost a friend in the Pentagon and I have three children who now are afraid when they see planes fly by.”

Ruth Davis, Clerk I
North Valley Justice Court

“It has made me aware that we do not live in a safe country anymore. It has also given me a deeper respect for our leaders, fireman and police.”

Cindy Clarke, Clerk I
Northwest Justice Court

“I like that fact that it has brought Americans together and closer to God.”

Lisa Fredendall, Chief Clerk
North Valley Justice Court

“It has reminded me that freedom is never free, it comes at a cost.”

Serena Brinklow, Clerk I
Gila Bend Justice Court

“I am more cautious and aware now.”

Sharon Martinez, Clerk III
East Phoenix #2

“I worry about our nation. Our leaders have to make very important decisions that will impact the world — I am just hoping and praying for the best.”

Today's Arizona Women Justices of the Peace

Maricopa County's five women Justices of the Peace will be featured in the November issue of *Today's Arizona Women's Success Magazine*. The women of the bench are: Adelita Villegas, East Phoenix #1; Jacqueline McVay, Northeast Phoenix; Pamela Gutierrez, South Phoenix; Rachel Carrillo, West Phoenix and Barbara Watkins, Northwest Phoenix.

Out of 23 Justice of the Peace Courts in Maricopa County, five are headed by women.

"We are very pleased that *Today's Arizona Women's Success Magazine* has recognized the contributions of our elected women Justices of the Peace," said Justice of the Peace Presiding Judge Lester N. Pearce.



Judge McVay



Judge Gutierrez



Judge Carrillo



Judge Villegas

Judge Villegas



Judge Watkins

Training is only available to Constables who have successfully completed Level I Safety Training and have submitted to and passed drug screening, background investigation and psychological examination. Level III Safety Training includes Basic Firearm and Weapons Retention training.

Safety Training Approved

Effective July 2001 the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved the Constables Personal Safety Training Policy to help ensure constable's personal safety while performing duties. All safety training is provided through the cooperation of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, along with the Arizona Police Officers Standard and Training Board support this policy.

The training consists of three levels: Level I Safety Training includes topics such as Emergency First Aid, CPR and Defensive Tactics; Level II Safety Training is optional and covers non-lethal defensive weapons such as chemical agents and baton training; Level III Safety

Constables, who successfully complete Level I and III training, approximately 132 hours, may carry a firearm during the performance of their duties and in course and scope of service. Constables who are certified as peace officers through Arizona Peace Officers Standard and Training Board are exempt from this policy.

Open House to be Held

The staff at the South Phoenix Justice Court is hosting an open house for the community. All are welcome at the event, which is being held at the South Phoenix Justice Court on November 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The court is located at 217 E. Olympic Dr. in Phoenix.

What's New For 2002?

Open Enrollment Begins October 20

Changes are coming to the county's benefits plan and all employees will be affected. Fortunately there will be plenty of opportunities to learn more about changes ahead. Starting October 20th employees can access information on open enrollment from either the county's intranet site, the Electronic Business Center (EBC), or the Internet.

To access information from the Internet, go to <https://www.maricopa.gov/openenrollment/> where you'll see a page that explains that the site is restricted to authorized personnel (which all of us, as Maricopa County employees, are). In the area that requests an Open Enrollment Password, type in GR8FUN4U. This must be in all capital letters. Then hit the Continue button.

To access information from the EBC, go to <http://ebc.maricopa.gov> from your office computer. Starting October 28th, there will be an Open Enrollment icon on the center of the screen. Just click on the icon.

There will also be a series of forums at sites around the county at which employees can speak directly to an employee of the benefits department. Here is the schedule of forums and enrollment fairs:

Open enrollment fairs (benefits staff and all vendors will be on hand for questions)

MONDAY, 10/29

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Breezeway, Admin. Bldg.
301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix

TUESDAY, 10/30

11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Maricopa Medical Center
Auditorium 3
2601 E. Roosevelt, Phoenix

WEDNESDAY, 10/31

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Southeast Facility
Saguaro Room
1810 S. Lewis, Mesa

THURSDAY, 11/1

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Airpark, Bldg. A - Finance
2444 E. University, Phoenix

MONDAY, 11/5

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
MCDOT Admin. Bldg.
Apache/Cochise Conf. Rm
2901 W. Durango, Phoenix

MONDAY, 11/6

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Public Health
Conference A&B
1825 E. Roosevelt, Phoenix

TUESDAY, 11/6

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Juvenile Probation, Rm 223
3125 W. Durango
Phoenix

WEDNESDAY, 11/7

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Breezeway, Admin. Bldg.
301 W. Jefferson , Phoenix
Public Health, Conference A&B
1825 E. Roosevelt, Phoenix

MONDAY, 11/12

6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
MCDOT Admin. Bldg.
Apache/Cochise Conf. Room
2901 W. Durango, Phoenix

TUESDAY, 11/13

11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Maricopa Med. Center
Admin. Bldg., Auditorium 3
2601 E. Roosevelt, Phoenix

WEDNESDAY, 11/14

11:00 a.m. -100 p.m.
Airpark _ BLdg. A
2444 E. University, Phoenix

THURSDAY, 11/15

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Breezeway, Admin. Bldg.
301 W. Jefferson
Phoenix

From The Administrator

By Bonnie Dicus
Chief Court Administrator

At the September Justice of the Peace Bench Meeting it was my pleasure to report on the status of the projects currently being planned and implemented in Justice Courts Services.

Following are highlights:

IN PLACE

- IGA for Gila Bend Court is completed
- We have received \$121,000 in July and \$126,000 in August from sending out letters to defendants stating if fine is not paid it will be turned over to a collection agency.
- JCEF grant for on-calls
- Newsletter has been redesigned
- Civil Traffic Manual has been revised
- System to automatically fax calendars to Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has been created

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Bilingual pay will go into effect beginning next pay period
- Pilot Project with AOC using telephone interpreters
- Website redesigned and updated information
- Approval of Fill the Gap money to put staff in the felony centers
- Mini Self Service Centers for North/South Mesa, One West Madison and Glendale/North Valley
- Northwest Regional Court Center starts October 1, 2001
- Southeast Regional Court Center starts November 5, 2001

People On the Move

Here is a list of people who have recently joined the Maricopa County Justice Courts or received a promotion. Welcome & Congratulations.

Promotions:

Heather Tomazin, Assistant Supervisor
Maryvale Justice Court

Cathy Greenberg, Assistant Supervisor
North Valley Justice Court

New Hires:

Philyis DeHerrera, Justice Court Clerk I

Bilingual Pay Program Approved

The Justice Courts have obtained approval to pay bilingual employees who speak Spanish in order to better serve our Spanish-speaking customers. A pilot project implemented last fiscal year in West Phoenix and Northwest Phoenix Justice Courts was rated very positive by those who participated.

The sixty employees who have indicated they are interested in testing for the new program will take an oral examination in October by an accredited agency that tests for Spanish skills. Those who qualify as beginner or intermediate will receive an additional 50 cents per hour added to their pay. Those who are certified as having advanced skills will received \$1 per hour. The pay differential will be paid for every hour worked at the court, but would not include time away from work like vacation and sick time.

Those who pass the test requirements and are interested in this program will translate for Spanish speaking court customers who require information on the phone or in person as well as assist in completing court forms, translating letters and preparing written responses.

"We appreciate those who have volunteered for consideration for this new program and look forward to being able to provide this service to the public," said Sue Johnson, Employee Relations Manager. Additional information on the bilingual pay program can be obtained by calling Johnson at 506-8568.

Alicia Valenzuela, Collector
East Phoenix #1 Justice Court
Lilly Quiroz – Justice Court Clerk I
West Phoenix
Georgina J. Beltran, Justice Court Clerk I
West Phoenix
Janette Lynne Fiorucci - JCC I On-call
Carol Anne Taylor, Security Guard
Paul Michael Hete, Security Guard
David P. Gonzales, Security Guard
Cassandra Gorman – Justice Court Clerk I,
South Mesa

Security Update in an Insecure World

By Heinz Sauermann
Court Security Supervisor

As you are all aware, recent national events as those in New York and Washington, D.C. have significantly impacted our way of life. As tragic and inhumane as these terrorist events have been, we have to create a new awakening and realization of how vulnerable we are. Security as we know it will no longer be the same.

We have had our small share of incidents. Since last year, we have had two bomb threats against our courts and several court evacuations. Fortunately, we have had not had any court employees injured as a result. However, these evacuations had demonstrated an important need for further practice throughout the justice courts. Communications between court staff and security is vital to insure for the protection and safety of everyone.

Most recently, we had a security officer conducting an exterior building check at the East Phoenix #2 justice court. He observed a gray metal box affixed to the brick wall of the court building. After checking that no one knew anything about it, a decision was made to call the police and evacuate the court. When the police arrived, they determined a need to call in the bomb squad. This evacuation reinforced the concept of good basic security principles, the effective interaction between security, court staff and the support of the Judge in effecting a prompt and orderly evacuation of the court.

People Helping People

Sometime a crisis brings out the best in people ... Following the evacuation of the Superior Court Justice Court Administrator Bonnie Dicus received a letter from Helen Cahill expressing appreciation for the assistance Judge C. Steven McMurry provided court officials. He allowed them to take refuge from the heat in his courtroom and provided a television so they could witness and take part in the memorial service at the National Cathedral.

Here are some ways all court employees can participate and reduce the security risks when serving our court customers and the public.

- All court employees should wear their issued identification cards when on duty.
- Look out for suspicious activity, person(s) and or behavior, report them to your supervisor.
- Comply with all existing security policies and procedures.
- Report all security violations to your supervisor.
- enter/exit through designated employee entrances only.
- Keep all exterior doors locked when not in use. Do not prop open any exit doors.
- Do not permit non ID card holders, guests, former employees, visitors and or family members access into your court unless they have been subject to security screening.
- Carry a cell phone when ever possible. This is fast becoming a vital piece of equipment for personal safety/protection for everyone. If you don't own one, consider buying one as soon as you can. A cell phone makes a good security blanket.
- When going out to your car, have your car keys in hand. Visually check underneath your car from a distance. Before getting in, check the interior areas of your car.
- If you observe strange people in the parking lot, or feel uncomfortable in going out alone, ask security to give you an escort out to your car.
- Be knowledgeable of your court emergency evacuation plans, designated assembly areas for disaster, fire and bomb threats.
- Report any exterior security lighting deficiencies to your supervisor.
- Do not give your personal security access codes to others.

For those of you who would be interested in obtaining more specific information about personal security tips for yourself and your families, you can get on line to;
<http://pages.prodigy.net/selfdefense/rapetip.html>
<http://www.yoursafety.ca/personal.html>